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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVINCIAL MOBILE LIVE FIRE TRAINING UNIT COMING TO ZORRA

NEWS

Firefighters from Zorra Township will be participating in live fire training on the provincial Mobile Live Fire Training Unit (MLFTU) Thursday July 27, 2023 to Sunday July 30, 2023 at the Thamesford Fire Station. During that time, it is expected that over 100 firefighters will take the opportunity to work together in this unit, as firefighters from neighbouring municipalities have been invited and scheduled to fill in the evolutions and participate alongside Zorra firefighters.

Zorra Fire Chief Deanna Kirwin commented "Training with our mutual aid partners is imperative to effectively operating on scene together. Having the opportunity to not only have Zorra Fire participate in this training, but also host it for others is a privilege."

The MLFTU is a full-sized transport trailer (16m/53' long) with a pop-up second floor allowing for a total assembled height of just over 6m/20'. It provides live fire training capabilities through three built in burn locations (two on the main floor and one on the second floor) including one that has roll-over capacity. The evolutions can be above or below grade, which will allow for training scenarios such as basement fires. This type of training is often very difficult to facilitate in a safe and controlled environment but is foundational in preparing firefighters for the hazards that exist when conducting interior firefighting operations in our communities.

Walls within the unit are interchangeable which allows for the layout to adapt as firefighters progress, and the training to continuously evolve to meet their unique needs. In addition to live fire training, firefighters will also be able to train on skills like forcible entry, laddering, ventilation, search and rescue, firefighter survival (wall breaching and window bailouts) and standpipe and sprinkler operations.

There are two units like this traveling the province to support Ontario's Fire Departments; one in the North and another in the South. Zorra Fire & Emergency Services is excited to be the only Oxford County stop knowing that many other municipalities that applied were unsuccessful in a securing this training in 2023. Acting Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal of Training and Certification Jeff VanRybroeck noted that "The MLFTUs are revolutionizing the way we deliver live fire training in the province, and it is great to see the collaboration of multiple municipalities coming together in Zorra Township."

Zorra Fire looks forward to a great few days of firefighting, with the operation of this unit and instructors provincially funded, with no additional training costs to Zorra or the participating municipalities.



Photo of the Provincial Mobile Live Fire Training Unit



Photo of Live Fire Prop with Roll-Over



Photo of Interior Operations in MLFTU

BACKGROUND

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario, Zorra Township has a population of approximately 9,000 people in a rural/urban setting. The Township comprises several rural clusters and two serviced villages. Zorra's vision is for a vibrant, prosperous, engaged and environmentally conscious community that evokes pride in residents for its accomplishments and continuing resilience as it forges the future.

MEDIA CONTACT

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